

Remarks

This amendment and response is in answer to the Office Action, mailed on April 14, 2008. Reconsideration of the rejections is requested in view of the amendments and remarks herein. Claims 1, 3, 4 and 15 are amended and no claims are added or cancelled. Accordingly, claims 1-14 are pending and claims 15-21 are withdrawn. The amendments to the claims are supported by the specification at page 9, lines 16-19 and page 3, paragraph [0032], lines 1-4 of published U.S. Patent Application no. 2007/0267355 A1. No new subject matter is added.

Restriction

The Examiner has made a telephonic restriction of the claims as follows:

Group I. Claims 15-21 drawn to a method of reducing the liquid content of a material comprising a particulate/liquid dispersion or suspension; and

Group II. Claims 1-14 and 23 drawn to an apparatus for reducing the liquid content of a material comprising a particulate/liquid dispersion or suspension

Applicants affirm their telephone election, without traverse, of Group II, claims 1-14.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1, 2 and 4 – 9 were rejected under 35 USC § 102(b) as anticipated by Miller *et al.*, U.S. Patent Application No. 2003/0150789 (“the '789 application”). To the extent that this rejection may be maintained with respect to the pending claims, it is respectfully traversed.

Reconsideration is requested. For a prior art reference to anticipate a claim under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a), the reference must teach every aspect of the claimed invention either explicitly or implicitly. MPEP § 706.02.

As amended claim 1 recites that the apparatus includes an electrode having a textile of synthetic material with a conductor comprising a plurality of elongate conducting elements woven into the textile. Miller *et al.* discloses an apparatus having a conveyor belt

that includes a plurality of discrete electrically conductive segments in a non conducting support. (See page 1, paragraph [0012] lines 3-5.) This material would not be continuously conductive along its length. The discrete segments are not an equivalent of the elongate conducting elements woven into a textile.

Accordingly, Miller *et al.* fails to disclose all of the recitations of claim 1 such that claim 1 is allowable over Miller *et al.* for at this reason. Claims 2 and 2-9 depend from an allowable base claim and are also allowable for the same reason.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 3, 10 and 14 were rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Miller *et al.*, U.S. Patent Application No. 2003/0150789 ("the '789 application"). To the extent that this rejection may be maintained with respect to the pending claims, it is respectfully traversed.

Claim 1 is allowable for the reasons discussed above. The Miller *et al.* patent fails to disclose or suggest an apparatus with an electrode having a textile material with a conductor comprising a plurality of elongate conducting elements woven into the textile. A person having ordinary skill in the art would not be lead to applicants invention based upon the Miller *et al.* disclosure. Accordingly, claims 3, 10 and 14 are allowable for at least the same reasons.

Claims 10 – 12 were rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Miller *et al.*, U.S. Patent Application No. 2003/0150789 ("the '789 application") in further view of Nelton Limited, GB 2,327,686 ("the '686 patent"). To the extent that this rejection may be maintained with respect to the pending claims, it is respectfully traversed.

As discussed above, Miller *et al.* recites discrete electrically conductive segments and fails to disclose a textile material with a conductor comprising a plurality of elongate conducting elements woven into the textile. The '686 patent discloses a plastic mesh having a conducting wire running longitudinally and a helical polyethylene wire that may be conducting. The conductive wire is associated with the polyethylene wire mesh and wrapped in a filter fabric. Thus, the combination of Miller *et al.* and the '686 patent fails to

disclose or suggest a textile material with a conductor comprising a plurality of elongate conducting elements woven into the textile. A person skilled in the art would not be lead to the claimed invention from the combination of Miller *et al.* and the '686 patent.

Claim 13 has been rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Miller *et al.*, U.S. Patent Application No. 2003/0150789 ("the '789 application") in further view of Nelton Limited, GB 2,327,686 ("the '686 patent") and Kunkle *et al.*, U.S. Patent No. 4,680,104 ("the '104 patent"). To the extent that this rejection may be maintained with respect to the pending claims, it is respectfully traversed.

The disclosures of Miller *et al.*, and the '686 patent have been discussed above. The '104 patent is added to include a metal coated with a mixed metal oxide. This addition fails to overcome the deficiencies of Miller *et al.* as discussed above. The combination of Miller and the '686 patent fail to disclose or suggest a textile material which would be continuously conductive along its length with an elongate conducting elements woven into the textile. The addition of the '104 patent also fails to include the textile having elongate conducting elements within it. Accordingly, a person skilled in the art would not be lead to applicants' invention based on the combination of Miller *et al.*, the '6864 patent, and the '104 patent.

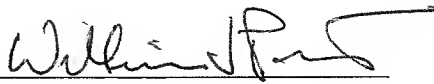
It is respectfully requested that the rejections of the claims under 35 U.S.C §102 and §103 be withdrawn.

Summary

Applicants request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections and passage of the application to the issue branch. The Examiner is invited to contact Applicant's Representatives at the below-listed telephone number if there are any questions regarding this Amendment or if prosecution of this application may be assisted thereby.

Respectfully Submitted,

Date: Oct 14, 2008


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